

## **Testimony**

### **Transportation, Infrastructure and Capital Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **The University of Iowa**

#### **Capital Appropriations Request**

**February 15, 2007**

#### **Michael J. Hogan, Executive Vice President and Provost**

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of the University of Iowa request for a capital appropriation for the construction of the College of Public Health Academic Building.

When the Regents gave their approval for the College of Public Health to open its doors on July 1, 1999, it was the University's first new college in 50 years. There were several reasons behind the decision to form this new college. Surveys of local health department employees indicated an overwhelming need for professional public health training in the form of an MPH and a distance learning Certificate in Public Health. Also, the research skills brought to the academic health sciences center by a larger public health faculty were regarded as essential if the University was to advance in biomedical and health science research. And finally, the University recognized that the national and global importance of public health and accompanying federal funding had risen sharply in the last decade—the result of global infectious diseases like AIDS, SARS, and pandemic influenza, and because of the need for public health preparedness made clear by the terror attacks of 9/11 and

subsequent anthrax exposures, and more recently by Hurricane Katrina. The College of Public Health was formed to address all of these needs and opportunities.

The General Assembly provided vital initial state appropriations of \$1,050,000 in FY 2000 for the new college, as part of the Public Health Initiative. This money, coupled with general education fund reallocations within the University's budget, served as the foundation on which the College was able to grow. Since its inception, the College's faculty has doubled in size, to 77 primary faculty; and it has experienced a significant increase in the number of graduate students, from 200 in FY 1999 to 426 in FY 2006. In addition, the College now serves 265 graduate and professional students from other colleges, 214 undergraduate students, and 43 Certificate in Public Health students. The College has also tripled its funding over the years, generating \$35.3 million in extramural research grants in FY 2006.

As you know, over the years, the College of Public Health has made important contributions to statewide public health services, engaging in public health activities in every county in Iowa (see Figure 1). Its faculty are frequently asked to develop and evaluate public policy by General Assembly committees, several state governmental departments, the Governor, federal agencies, and professional societies (see Table 1). These statewide outreach services and this policy input directly contribute to public health needs in every Iowa county. The College has also been very successful at fund raising, significantly exceeding its goal of \$9 million by raising \$11.7 million (by 6/30/05) as part of the University's \$1 billion *Good. Better. Best. Iowa!* campaign. The College is optimistic about its ability to raise at least \$6 million in philanthropy toward the cost of the proposed new academic building.

However, the rapid growth of the College of Public Health has come at a cost. The college has no classrooms of its own, which means students and faculty must commute among nine buildings on the health science campus to use classrooms not being used at that hour by one of the other health science colleges. The College's faculty are located in three different buildings on the health science campus and the Oakdale Campus, some eight miles west of the main campus. Including research facilities used by the College's 28 centers and institutes, the College now occupies 16 different buildings on and off campus. The result is a very challenging teaching environment, fragmentation in research, and difficulty in communication and collaboration among students, faculty, and staff.

To address this now urgent need, the University has sought since FY 2002 to plan and construct an academic building for the College of Public Health in order to provide a dedicated academic facility for its faculty and its instruction, and to create a physical identity for the College. Largely because of fiscal constraints, this project was delayed until FY 2006. In August of 2005, the Board of Regents approved moving forward with planning the College of Public Health Academic Building. In November of 2005, the Board endorsed this University project and the hiring of architectural consultants, and we identified a preferred site, the International Center, previously the location of the College of Law. The buildings on that site are now fully depreciated and the University has a plan to relocate the current occupants over the next 4 months.

The need for this academic facility is clear. Providing a new home for the College of Public Health is the University's highest capital priority—and the Board of Regents has supported it, too. The General Assembly provided the essential \$2 million in planning funds for FY 2007. This request envisions state support for this project in the amount of \$18.7 million for FY

2008. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$44.6 million. The remaining funds are to be raised from gifts (at least \$6 million), and from bond proceeds and earnings (including indirect cost recoveries from sponsored research). In other words, The University of Iowa in total offers to match the state support for this project on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis.

This is our top capital priority—because giving the College the academic home it needs will not only improve teaching and learning for faculty and students on our campus, it will help those faculty and students improve the quality of life for Iowans, now and far into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the need for an Academic Building for the College of Public Health. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or members of the subcommittee may have.

# BUILDING TODAY *for a* HEALTHY TOMORROW

**Public health today enjoys an unprecedented level of visibility and public interest.** Never before has there been such broad awareness and concern about the issues that affect the health of our society, including: the threat of a possible influenza pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases; issues related to access, cost, and quality of health care services; the growing number of uninsured and underinsured individuals; concern about environmental quality; the changing needs of a rapidly aging population; and challenges presented by chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the anthrax attacks that followed, heightened an already growing awareness of public health and made clear the need for urgent new measures to ensure preparedness – a message reinforced in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the U.S. Gulf Coast with such devastating impact.

**TOGETHER, THESE FACTORS HIGHLIGHT THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS AND STRATEGIES AND A WELL-TRAINED PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AT THE LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.**



*College of Public Health Vision Statement:  
To serve Iowa and the Midwest as one of the nation's premier state-assisted schools of public health and lead the global community in rural public health education and training, research, and practice.*

## MEETING THE PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

In 1999, The University of Iowa and the state of Iowa renewed their commitment to meeting the emerging public health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by founding the College of Public Health – the first new college established at the University in 50 years.

Building on a tradition of public health teaching, research, and service at The University of Iowa dating back more than 100 years, the College of Public Health has been in the forefront of efforts to meet the public health needs of Iowa, the Midwest region, the nation, and the world. Through degree and certificate programs, the use of innovative distance learning technologies, and continuing education opportunities, the college is preparing the next generation of leaders in health care and public health.

### PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Public Health (15 degree options, including 4 combined degrees)
- Master of Health Administration (3 combined degrees)
- Master of Science (6 degree options)
- Doctor of Philosophy (7 degree options)
- Occupational Medicine Residency
- Certificate in Public Health (12-hour program primarily for public health workers)

Since its establishment, the College of Public Health has experienced impressive growth across key areas, including student enrollment, faculty size, and external funding.

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

In 2006, 426 graduate students were enrolled in the college's degree programs. An additional 522 students – from other graduate and professional programs, undergraduates, and certificate seekers – received public health instruction.

### FACULTY

Primary faculty increased from an initial cohort of 41 when the college was formed to 77 at the end of fiscal year 2006.

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

Funding to public health faculty who were principal investigators on grants and contracts increased from \$18 million in fiscal year 2001 to \$35.3 million in fiscal year 2006.

The college's strong record of attracting external support has led to the establishment of 28 interdisciplinary research centers. These centers provide research on critical public

## UI College of Public Health Major Milestones

- 1999** Established as the centerpiece of the UI Public Health Initiative.
- 2000** First class of students in the Master of Public Health degree program graduates.
- 2000** Department of Health Management and Policy (formerly the Graduate Program in Hospital and Health Administration) celebrates 50 years as an academic unit of The University of Iowa.
- 2002** Departments of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Occupational and Environmental Health celebrate 25 years as academic units of The University of Iowa.
- 2003** College granted seven years of full accreditation – the maximum length possible – by the Council on Education for Public Health.
- 2005** UI successfully concludes a seven-year, \$1 billion comprehensive campaign. College of Public Health raises \$12 million for endowed chairs and professorships, student support, and other collegiate programs as part of the UI campaign.
- 2006** Iowa General Assembly approves \$2 million in planning funds for the UI to develop an academic home for the College of Public Health.

health topics, ranging from agricultural injury, birth defects, and clinical trials, to environmental health, health care quality, and tobacco use prevention. In addition, these centers are also the primary platform for the delivery of the outreach, service, and policy activities for which the College of Public Health is widely recognized.

**THE RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EXTEND TO EACH OF THE STATE'S 99 COUNTIES. BETWEEN JUNE 2005 AND MAY 2006, NON-CREDIT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE ATTRACTED MORE THAN 7,800 PARTICIPANTS FROM IOWA, NEIGHBORING STATES, AND INTERNATIONALLY.**





## AN ACADEMIC HOME FOR THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Despite remarkable progress during the past seven years, serious obstacles remain. The lack of adequate facilities continues to represent the single greatest challenge confronting the college. Public health students are taught in nine buildings where the college borrows classroom space. Public health faculty are located in three different buildings on two campuses, while staff are scattered throughout 16 different buildings on and off campus.

**AS A RESULT, STUDENTS AND FACULTY LACK THE COMMON ACADEMIC SPACE REQUIRED FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH.**

The urgent need for a new academic facility for the College of Public Health has been identified as a top priority by The University of Iowa, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and the Iowa General Assembly. In 2005, the Regents recommended capital appropriations in support of a 130,000-gross-square-foot building to serve as the College of Public Health's academic home. In spring 2006, the General Assembly appropriated \$2 million in planning funds for the UI to conduct conceptual and schematic design for this facility. The Board of Regents is now requesting \$18.7 million in state funds to be matched with University and private capital support.

**A minimum \$6 million in private philanthropy** is needed to meet the basic project costs of \$44.6 million for this new facility. **An additional \$12 million from philanthropy or other sources** is required to completely finish the facility and provide enhanced access to the dramatic site this building will occupy.

With help from generous supporters and in partnership with the state of Iowa and the University, this new academic facility will allow the College of Public Health to attain the following programmatic goals:

- Provide an academic home for the college.
- Foster interdisciplinary work and integration.
- Provide a gathering place for the public health community.
- Provide opportunities for departments to grow.
- Bring students and faculty together.
- Create a physical identity for the college.
- Reflect sustainable building design principles.

Construction of this new facility is scheduled to begin in fall 2007 and the building will be ready for occupancy in summer 2010.

## Facility Program for the New Academic Home

Instructional Space  
Student Support  
Auditorium  
Department of Biostatistics  
Department of Community and Behavioral Health  
Department of Epidemiology  
Department of Health Management and Policy  
Department of Occupational and Environmental Health  
Café/Food Service  
Building Services  
Dean's Office  
Administrative Services



## THE TIME IS NOW – AND YOU CAN HELP

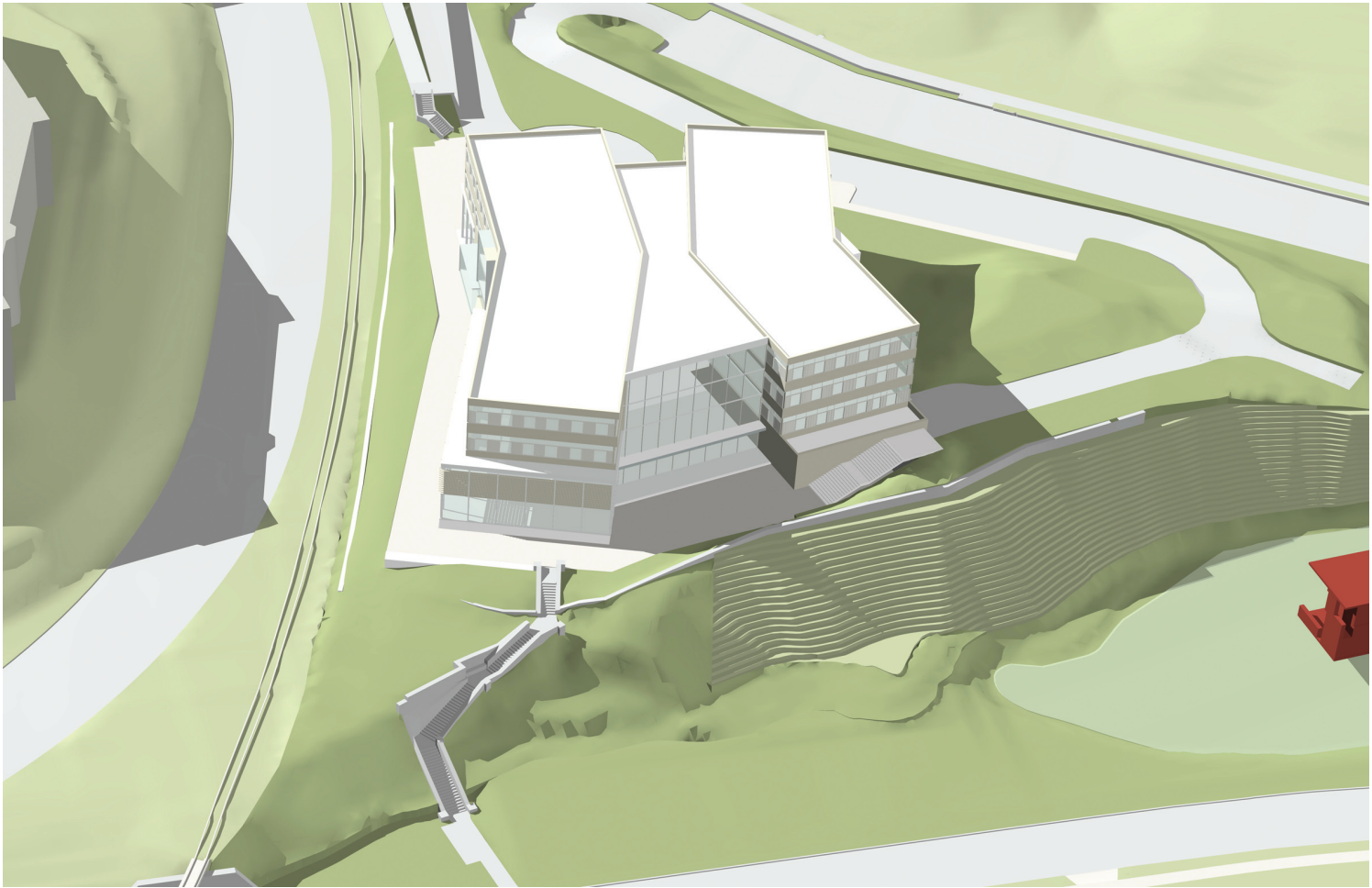
The science of public health has never been more relevant and the demand for a well-trained workforce has never been more urgent. This academic facility will enable students and faculty throughout the college to rise to these challenges and pursue the innovative, multidisciplinary approaches to health promotion and disease prevention that are the hallmarks of public health.

To make this facility a reality, **the College of Public Health must rely on support from generous alumni, friends, and supporters.** While the state of Iowa and the University are funding a significant portion of this initiative, the college must secure at least \$6 million to meet basic project costs – and an additional \$12 million from philanthropy or other sources to ensure the facility is ready to serve all faculty, students, and core staff when it opens. With your help this facility will become a reality. With your support the College of Public Health will attain its vision to become the comprehensive public health resource that Iowans need and deserve.



## The Campaign for the UI College of Public Health

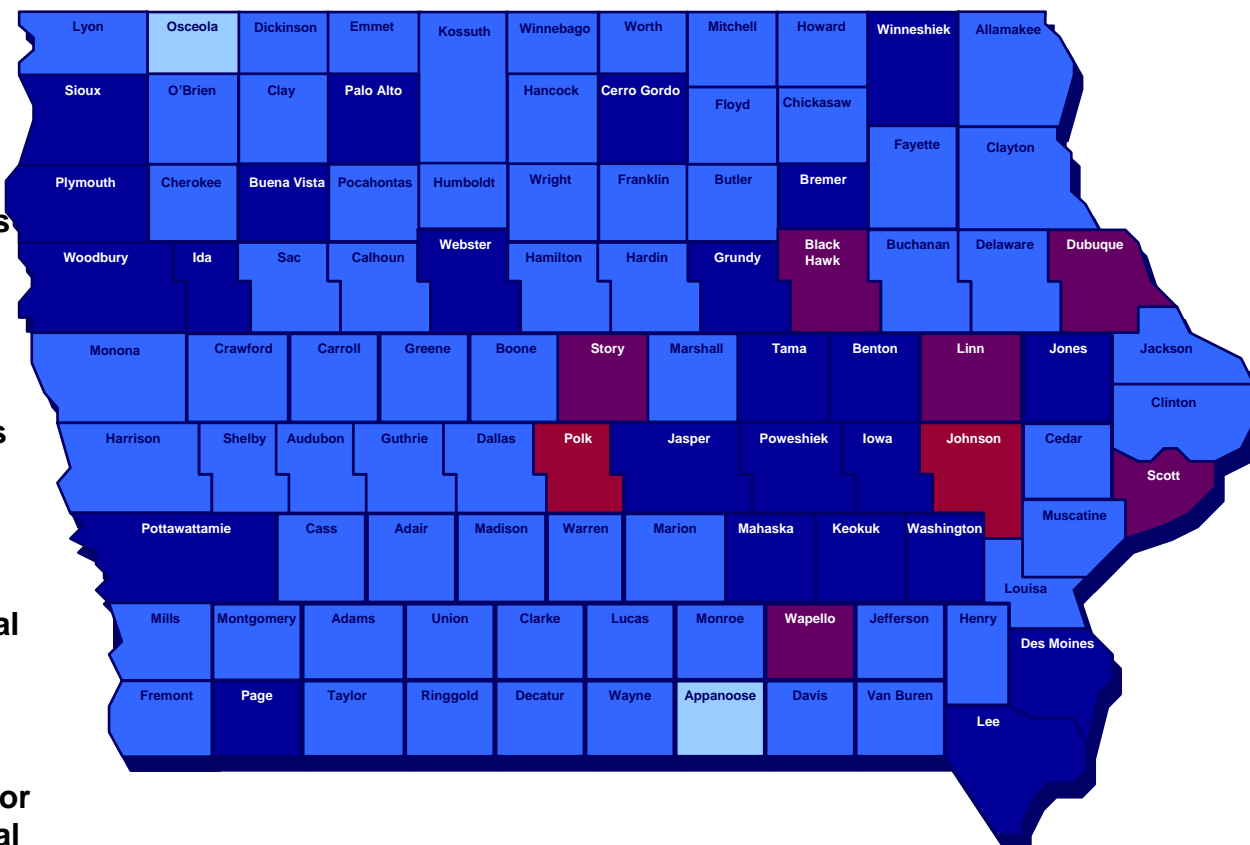
**BUILDING TODAY** *for a*  
**HEALTHY TOMORROW**



# Figure I. Community Engagement Activities, FY2005

## Examples of CPH Statewide Engagement Activities

1. Tobacco cessation services, via Quitline Iowa
2. Agricultural occupational health training for staff
3. Occupational health services for businesses and individuals throughout Iowa
4. Public health preparedness training for local health officials and first responders
5. Cancer data collection from local hospitals, clinics, and laboratories
6. Faculty presentations to local communities on various public health topics (34 programs to date)
7. Data management services for statewide Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
8. Training and education for healthcare organizations to enhance the quality of patient care



**Table I.**  
**University of Iowa**  
**College of Public Health**

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**Policy Development & Evaluation**  
**1999-2006**

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Aging and long-term care</b></li><li>▪ <b>Public health preparedness</b></li><li>▪ <b>Public health capacity building</b></li><li>▪ <b>Patient safety</b></li><li>▪ <b>Health care quality</b></li><li>▪ <b>Firearm safety</b></li><li>▪ <b>Bicycle and motorcycle safety</b></li><li>▪ <b>Farm injury prevention</b></li><li>▪ <b>Child passenger safety legislation</b></li><li>▪ <b>Blood alcohol legislation</b></li><li>▪ <b>Health care organization governance</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Rural health care</b></li><li>▪ <b>Speed limit legislation</b></li><li>▪ <b>Workplace violence</b></li><li>▪ <b>Domestic violence</b></li><li>▪ <b>Developmental disabilities</b></li><li>▪ <b>Cancer prevention</b></li><li>▪ <b>Substance abuse</b></li><li>▪ <b>Tobacco control</b></li><li>▪ <b>Bioterrorism</b></li><li>▪ <b>Rural air quality</b></li><li>▪ <b>Medicaid policy</b></li><li>▪ <b>Mental health</b></li><li>▪ <b>Pandemic influenza preparedness</b></li><li>▪ <b>Child development policy</b></li></ul> |
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